

U.S. Application No. 09/741,048

Docket No. 0879-0295P

Art Unit: 2612

Page 2 of 25

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION**

*Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 14, line 17 as follows:*

At step 204 of "ABSTRACT BACKGROUND," an area including at least one corner of the image is the reference of the background. If an area adjoining to the reference of the background satisfies one of the conditions below, the CPU 64 considers the area as the background. The reference of the background may be the area of out an oval that is smaller than the image with its center at the center of the image. The conditions are as follows: